

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING, SHALER TOWNSHIP**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:32 P.M. by Chairman David Shutter. Following a prayer by Commissioner Cross and the Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman asked the Secretary to call the roll as follows:

**PRESENT:** Cross, Shutter, Wagner, Mizgorski, Fisher, Iozzo, Boyle  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Christopher Lovato, Manager; Judith Kording, Assistant Manager;  
Sean Frank, Chief of Police; Amanda Jennings, Finance Director.

The Chairman announced that an Executive Session was held on June 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. wherein the following topics were discussed: employment and personnel matters and policies, and an update on potential litigation which if conducted in public would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of confidential information. Mr. Lovato said the session was necessary and was in full compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

**New Business**

**Garbage Contract Discussion**

The first item of business was the garbage contract discussion.

**Mr. Lovato** stated that a County Hauling representative was present at the meeting. **Mr. Lovato** stated the contract was put out to bid with two options, Option A and Option B. **Mr. Lovato** stated that Option A was substantially similar to the service the Township currently has, and Option B was the canned, toter service. **Mr. Lovato** stated that the Township received only one bid for both from County Hauling and the contract price is \$30 per month under Option A. **Mr. Lovato** invited the County Hauling representative, Christina Murtaugh, to speak to the contract.

**Ms. Murtaugh** explained that the Option A bagged service was the less expensive option because the toters are expensive, as are the trucks required to use them. **Ms. Murtaugh** stated that County Hauling wants to give the best service to residents and that is through manual collection; County Hauling would prefer to stay with manual collection as well, unless circumstances dictate otherwise in the future.

**Mr. Shutter** asked the other board members if they had questions for Ms. Murtaugh.

Upon inquiry from **Mr. Boyle**, **Ms. Murtaugh** stated that the holiday schedule and yard waste schedules will remain the same.

Upon inquiry from **Mrs. Fisher**, **Ms. Murtaugh** stated that the pickup schedule and routes would remain the same as they are now.

**Mr. Lovato** stated that the \$30 per month is the base price and that there is a 15% discount for registered senior citizens. **Mr. Lovato** stated that there has been a substantial increase in the cost of collection, between 30-80%. **Mr. Lovato** stated that the recently awarded COG contract was \$0.51 more per month, but that was for canned service, which is less garbage weekly than residents would get with bagged service. **Mr. Lovato** stated that our contract will also allow for one (1) bulk item per week.

Upon inquiry from **Mr. Boyle**, **Ms. Murtaugh** stated that County Hauling has the highest retention rate compared to others in the industry, and that the drivers in Shaler are consistent and have been here the longest.

Upon inquiry from **Mr. Mizgorski**, **Ms. Murtaugh** stated that bagged service would be your normal 33-gallon kitchen trash bag, and County Hauling will take up to 15 of those bags per week.

**Mr. Shutter** invited members of the public to address the board.

**Bruce Unks, 144 Peters Drive**

Upon inquiry from **Mr. Unks**, **Ms. Murtaugh** stated that nothing has changed as far as what could be put out and that 15 bags per week was the limit.

**Mr. Lovato** said that the Township is very happy that we were able to keep the service substantially the same as the current contract and thanked **Judy Kording, Melanie Crawford, and Amanda Jennings** for their work on the contract.

**Robert Ambrose, 1322 Walters Ave**

**Mr. Ambrose** requested that he be able to speak with the County Hauling representative after the meeting, due to a billing issue that occurred after he sold a property.

**Jane Fisher, 111 Wetzal**

**Ms. Fisher** stated that she was very happy with the service from County Hauling, however, she has noticed so many people that are putting things in the recycling bins that do not belong there and asked if there was anything that could be done about this. **Mr. Iozzo** stated that the information on what to recycle is out there. **Mr. Shutter** also said that a mailer will go out to residents that will remind them what can and cannot be recycled. **Ms. Murtaugh** stated that when the recycling gets to the center, the items are sorted so anything that should not be recycled is filtered out so even if things do get taken that shouldn't be, it's caught in the sorting process.

**Judy Stauffer, 756 Center Ave**

**Ms. Stauffer** said that the gentlemen who collect the trash in her area are wonderful and very personable. **Ms. Stauffer** stated that everything is always picked up and they are very pleasant to the residents.

**Donna Bodnar, 299 Hawthorne Rd**

**Ms. Bodnar** said that she is very happy with the service from County Hauling and also from **Ms. Murtaugh**.

**Patty Unks, 144 Peters Drive**

**Ms. Unks** said she is happy that County Hauling is getting the award, but questioned whether they were really the only bidder.

**Mr. Lovato** confirmed that County Hauling was the only company to submit a bid. **Mr. Lovato** stated that the delinquent billing rates were an issue for some vendors, as well as the transition to the toter system as it requires a large capital outlay for companies. **Mr. Lovato** stated that it is also difficult to get the automated trucks needed for the toter system.

**Robert Ambrose, 1322 Walters Ave**

Upon inquiry from **Mr. Ambrose**, **Mr. Lovato** stated the contract is for three years, with two mutual options to extend.

**Mr. Shutter** stated that County Hauling came to the Township to break into the market and that they have always worked with us to meet our complaints and concerns and has served our community well in the last 5 years.

**David Hartman, 137 Hiram St**

Upon inquiry from **Mr. Hartman**, **Ms. Murtaugh** stated that she does not see the recycling market expanding what is accepted, but if it does, County Hauling will change as well.

**Jim Harvey, 1497 Elm Ave**

**Mr. Harvey** stated that he would like to see recycling work in the community and sees things that shouldn't be out for recycling. **Mr. Harvey** asked if it would be appropriate to put stickers on items or bins telling people what was wrong with them. **Ms. Murtaugh** said that tagging is difficult because the recycling collection is automated, and the drivers can't see what is in the bins.

**Mr. Shutter** thanked everyone for their comments and said this is an important decision for the community and we want to make the best decision for our residents.

**Executive Session Announcement**

**Mr. Shutter** announced that the next board meeting date would be Tuesday July 11, 2023.

**Commissioner's Comments**

**Ms. Fisher** reminded everyone that Float with a Flick is Friday June 30<sup>th</sup>, and invited everyone to come out for Community Day on July 4<sup>th</sup> at Kiwanis Park.

**Mr. Boyle** thanked **Ms. Murtaugh** for coming to the meeting and answering everyone's questions. **Ms. Murtaugh** thanked the Township and said that she was looking forward to working with the Township for years to come.

**Manager's Report**

**Mr. Lovato** congratulated all the high school athletes on their recent accomplishments at the state competitions. **Mr. Lovato** also reminded everyone to come to the park for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Community Day.

## **Public Comment**

### **Jim Harvey, 1497 Elm St.**

**Mr. Harvey** inquired about the new rules for the building security. **Mr. Harvey** stated that he belongs to a group called Democrats for Shaler that meets at the Township meeting room on Sunday because it's convenient. **Mr. Harvey** requested that an accommodation be made for the group, as the Sunday meeting time is better for their members, and asked if it would be possible to have someone let them in for the meetings and lock up after they are gone. **Mr. Boyle** responded that we now have new tenants in the building, and we must take overall security into consideration. **Mr. Boyle** stated that if they rely on the police to let them in and out of the building, they may not be able to if they are responding to calls. **Mr. Boyle** also clarified that this was not the only group that was impacted. Upon inquiry from **Mr. Harvey**, **Mr. Boyle** stated that there is no office staff here on the weekends and if a door was left open or unlocked it would be open to anyone.

### **Walt Pitrusu, 123 Lammert Dr**

Upon inquiry from **Mr. Pitrusu**, **Mr. Lovato** stated that an ordinance was passed with fines associated with violating the ordinance, however a larger solution has not been discussed.

There being no further business, **Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mrs. Fisher, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:10 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Christopher A. Lovato, Secretary  
Seal